



October 22, 2024

Dear Governor Shapiro,

The proximity of fracking and related infrastructure to our homes, schools, water bodies, and public resources threatens people's health and these resources.

- Extensive research has established that living close to fracking exposes residents to unsafe levels of pollution and is associated with cancer, asthma, heart problems, preterm birth, birth defects, and other serious health problems. Three recent observational studies sponsored by the state of Pennsylvania found strong associations between fracking and health risks, including respiratory issues, increased risk of childhood cancer and low birth weight.
- The primary recommendation of the 43rd Statewide Investigating Grand Jury's report on fracking was to enact a 2,500 foot no-drill zone between fracking and homes, as well as a 5,000 foot no-drill zone for schools and hospitals. In reference to the recommended residential buffer, the Grand Jury stated that, "We do not believe such a modest buffer zone is too much to ask when it comes to people's health and homes." The Grand Jury described Pennsylvania's current, easily-waived 500 foot setback requirement between fracking and buildings as "woefully inadequate."
- The Department of Environmental Protection has the legal authority to enact setback distances that prevent fracking infrastructure from being built too close to our homes, schools, hospitals, streams, and wetlands.
- There is broad public support from Pennsylvania residents for increased setbacks distances. An October 2024 public opinion study conducted by Upswing Research for the Ohio River Valley Institute showed that 90% of responding Pennsylvania residents support stricter fracking regulations, including increased no-drill zones distances.

We, the undersigned organizations, strongly urge you to institute a statewide no-drill zone rule with the following distances:

- **3,281 feet from any buildings**
- **5,280 feet from any buildings serving vulnerable populations (e.g., schools, hospitals)**
- **3,281 feet from any drinking water wells**
- **750 feet from any surface water of the Commonwealth**

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Beaver County Marcellus Awareness Community (BCMAC)
 Beaver County NAACP
 Breathe Project
 Center for Biological Diversity
 Center for Coalfield Justice
 Clean Air Council
 Concerned Residents of West Deer (CROWD)
 Conservation Voters of PA
 Earthworks
 Environmental Health Project
 Environmental Integrity Project (EIP)
 Food & Water Watch
 FracTracker Alliance
 Ivy Lane Alliance
 Justice Ministry, St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Allison Park, PA
 Mountain Watershed Association
 PennEnvironment
 PennFuture
 People Over Petro Coalition
 Philadelphia Democratic Socialists of America (DSA)
 Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) Pennsylvania
 Protect PT
 Responsible Decarbonization Alliance (RDA)
 Sierra Club Pennsylvania
 Sunrise Movement Pennsylvania
 Sunrise Movement Pittsburgh
 Three Rivers Waterkeeper
 Yough Communities C.A.R.E.